

# \$700k backflip on centre plans

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THE Federal Government has reneged on a \$770,000 grant for Tully's planned \$5.6 million multi-purpose centre, placing the long-awaited development in even further doubt.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council on Thursday suspended design work on the centre for six more weeks while it waits to see if the federal or state governments will step in with more money.

Mayor Bill Shannon flew to Brisbane on Wednesday for urgent meetings with Education

Minister Rod Wel-  
ford and Mulgrave  
MP Warren Pitt to  
point out the cen-  
tre was a victim of  
the amalgamation  
process.

"Cardwell Shire  
Council was on the  
verge of approving it (centre) out  
of recurrent income," he said.

"But because of the size and fi-  
nancial status of Johnstone Shire  
Council, justifying that sort of  
money now is very difficult be-  
cause of the backlog of important  
works.

"And that puts Tully at a dis-  
advantage that amalgamations



**Bill Shannon**

were not supposed to cause." He  
said the \$770,000, approved by the  
Federal Government for the cen-  
tre, had been withdrawn because  
the funding agreement had not  
been signed before the Rudd Gov-  
ernment scrapped the Regional  
Partnerships funding program.

The council would have to  
put in \$2.3 million and the extra  
\$770,000 if the centre was to go  
ahead.

It is asking Education Queens-  
land to significantly increase its  
\$1.176 million commitment.

"The centre would be on the  
Tully State High School grounds  
and they'll be using it the most,"  
Cr Shannon said.